

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is(are) two (2) sheet(s) of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Figs. 2 and 4: the arrow directing the element "Storage Start Signal" has been changed to conform to the specification

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 12-23 are now pending, claims 12, 14, and 15 being independent. In this Reply, Applicants have canceled claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer and have added claims 12-23. Minor clarifying amendments have been made to the specification and Figs. 2 and 4.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Boyce* (U.S. Patent 6,012,091). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because claims 1-11 have been canceled, Applicants present the following comments with respect to the patentability of the newly-added claims over *Boyce*. Independent claim 12 is directed to an image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus for receiving, storing and reconstructing a coded image signal fed from an image signal transmitting apparatus for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur. The apparatus of claim 12 comprises: a storage and reconstruction control unit, which outputs an intra-frame request signal directing, in accordance with a request for storage, the image signal transmitting apparatus to transmit the coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded, and also outputs a storage start signal for carrying out a storage starting operation;

and a coded signal storage unit, which extracts, in accordance with the storage start signal, the information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal transmitted from the image signal transmitting apparatus, and starts storing the coded image signal when it is detected that the input coding image is the one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

Boyce is directed to a video coder used in a video telecommunication server environment, e.g., for use in video phone services. In the system of *Boyce*, as illustrated in Fig. 1, encoded video is decoded and re-encoded in a form that allows a server 20 to provide fast forward capability in response to requests from the user's video decoder apparatus. See e.g., col. 6, lines 47-60. In one embodiment, this is achieved by providing intra-coded frames in response to a fast forward command. See e.g., col. 10, lines 1-4. As discussed at col. 10, lines 18-20, the server 20 may periodically request that a caller's encoder 10 transmit an intra-coded frame.

Applicants submit, however, that *Boyce* fails to teach an image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus as claimed, in which a storage and reconstruction control unit outputs an intra-frame request signal directing an image signal transmitting apparatus to transmit a coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded in accordance with a request for storage in

combination with a coded signal storage unit that extracts, in accordance with the storage start signal, information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal and starts storing the coded image signal upon detecting that the input coding image is one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

At least for this reason, Boyce fails to anticipate independent claim 12, or any claim depending therefrom.

Independent claim 14 is directed to an image signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a coded image signal for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur. The apparatus of claim 14 comprises: an image coding unit for coding an input image signal and transmitting the thus coded image signal to an image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus; and a coding control unit which receives an intra-frame request signal sent from the image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus and detects frequency of error occurrences, so as to control the frequency of the coded intra-frame coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded, in accordance with the frequency of the intra-frame request signal and that of the error occurrences.

Thus, the transmission apparatus of claim 14 controls the frequency of transmitting intra-frame coded images in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded in accordance with the

frequency of received intra-frame request signals and the detected frequency of error occurrences. Applicants respectfully submit that *Boyce* fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

At least for this reason, *Boyce* fails to anticipate independent claim 14, or any depending therefrom.

Independent claim 15 is directed to an image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus for receiving, storing, and reproducing a coded image signal for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur. The apparatus of claim 15 comprises: a storage and reconstruction control unit, which transmits a reconstruction start signal directing the start of reconstruction of the coded image signal stored in a coded signal storage unit, in accordance with a request for reconstruction, and an image decoding unit, which extracts, in accordance with the reconstruction start signal, the information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal output from the coded signal storage unit, and starts reconstructing the coded image signal when it is detected that the input coding image is the one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Boyce* fails to teach the combination as recited in claim 15, in which an image decoding unit extracts information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal output from a coded signal

storage unit in accordance with a reconstruction start signal and starts reconstructing the coded image signal when it is detected that the input coding image is one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

At least for this reason, Applicants submit that *Boyce* fails to anticipate claim 15, or any claim depending therefrom.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Conclusion

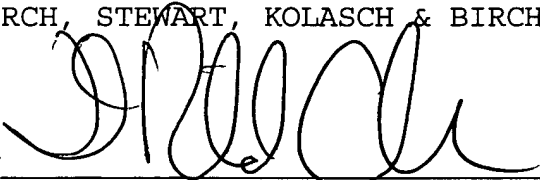
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$120.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Replacement Drawings for Figs. 2 and 4